

## **Berry Subdivision Historic District**

General boundaries: East Jefferson Avenue, Holcomb Avenue, Stanton Canal, and the Detroit River.

Local                    ✓            6/13/78  
State  
State Marker  
National



Lodge Drive streetscape.



### **Historic overview:**

The history of the Berry Subdivision reflects the economic history of Detroit from the beginning of the automobile industry to the Great Depression, although its history begins a few decades earlier. In the mid-1890s development began to occur in Berry Subdivision, then known as Park View. Louis Kamper built the first house for Detroit clothing manufacturer Marvin M. Stanton in 1898. Today, this house is known as The Castle, due to its fantastic assemblage of towers, turrets, crenellations and roofs.

The Joseph H. Berry subdivision was platted in 1914. Berry's daughters had inherited the land, and decided to develop a subdivision of high quality single-family homes. Restrictive covenants still in force today, were attached to each deed. The majority of the houses date from the 1920s, and several well-known Detroit architects are represented in Berry Subdivision. Particularly notable is the row of seven residences on Dwight on the riverfront. The five westernmost houses were all built for the Weber family. The easternmost house, built in 1927 for General Charles W. Harrah. It was later owned by Alex Manoogian, philanthropist and founder of the Masco Corporation, and is now the official residence of the mayor of Detroit.

The Depression ended the Berry sisters' hopes for a complete development, as few homes were built from 1930-1942. However, there was a resurgence after WWII. Forty-four of the 118 lots in Berry have never been built upon, twenty-four are owned by adjoining householders and used as landscaped side lots. This has created a feeling of openness in the subdivision. In addition, four of the riverfront lots are a dedicated park, named for David F. Stockton, a WWII hero. The Berry Subdivision Association has long been active in encouraging the maintenance of this neighborhood.

